



February 9th, 2021

Attn: Joint Committee on Environment

RE: SB 837

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committee:

The Alliance for Telomer Chemistry Stewardship (ATCS) is a global organization that advocates on behalf of C6 fluorotelomer-based products. Our members are leading manufacturers of fluorotelomer based products. Our mission is to promote the responsible production, use, and management of fluorotelomer based products, while also advocating for a sound science- and risk-based approach to regulation. Fluorotelomer-based products are versatile chemistries with wetting and spreading features, as well as unique properties that repel water, oil and stains. These unique characteristics make fluorotelomers a critical component of first responder gear, medical garments, paints and coatings, upholstery, class B firefighting foam, among other uses that families and businesses across the world rely on.

On behalf of the members of ATCS, we respectfully request that, with respect to SB 837, a bill that seeks to regulate class B firefighting foam, you: (i) expand the exemption for petroleum fires to include fires at chemical plants and some fixed foam systems; (ii) definition addition; and, iii) removal of take back provision pending additional input on structure.

AFFF foams are the most effective foams currently available to fight high-hazard flammable liquid fires (Class B) in military, industrial, chemical, fuel depot/storage, aviation and other applications. AFFF have proven effectiveness in large scale tank fires, fuel-in-depth fires and other high hazard Class B fires. Their unique film-forming and fuel repellency properties provide rapid extinguishment, critical burnback resistance and protection against vapor release, which help to prevent re-ignition and protect fire fighters working as part of rescue and recovery operations.

Fluorine-free foams can and do provide an alternative to fluorinated foams in some applications such as spill fires and smaller tank fires. However, they are not currently able to provide the same level of fire suppression capability, efficiency, flexibility, and scope of usage.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Shawn Swearingen
Director, Alliance for Telomer Chemistry Stewardship

CT SB 837

AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF PERFLUOROALKYL OR POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES IN CLASS B FIREFIGHTING FOAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2021) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance" means a class of fluorinated organic chemicals containing at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom;

(2) "Class B firefighting foam" means a foam used for the purpose of extinguishing flammable liquid fires; and

(3) "Testing" includes calibration testing, conformance testing and fixed system testing as required by state or municipal law or policy.

(4) "Fixed Foam System" means a complete installation piped from a central foam station, discharging through fixed discharge devices on the flammable liquid hazard being protected. Foam proportioning components are permanently installed. The system has been engineered for the hazard and often contains multiple (UL or FM) listed components and foam.

(b) On and after July 1, 2022, no person, local government or state agency may use a class B firefighting foam that contains an intentionally added perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance in any amount for training purposes.

(c) On or after July 1, 2023, no person shall use a class B firefighting foam that contains an intentionally added perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance for any firefighting purpose unless such fire is a petroleum-based fire, at chemical manufacturing plants utilizing fixed foam systems, and the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection fails to identify an alternative to such use by April 1, 2022.

~~(d) Not later than October 1, 2022, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall develop a take back program for municipal sources of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances that results in the application of best management practices for the disposal of such substances.~~

(e) The provisions of this section may be enforced, within available appropriations, by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection. This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1

July 1, 2021

New section

Commented [SS1]: Would recommend removing a general take back provision without fully knowing potential structure and system. Would be potentially open to refinement.